

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A locator device, comprising:
  - 2 at least one module comprising at least one chamber, wherein said at least one module is
  - 3 constructed of inherently buoyant materials;
  - 4 fastener means for connecting said at least one module to a structure;
  - 5 at least one computer contained in said at least one chamber;
  - 6 a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes
  - 7 submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said at least one computer;
  - 8 at least one power source operably coupled to said at least one computer and said means
  - 9 for transmitting a signal.
- 1 2. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises a tether that pays
- 2 out and allows said at least one module to ascend to the water surface when said structure
- 3 becomes submerged in a body of water.
- 1 3. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an optical link
- 2 between said at least one module and said structure.
- 1 4. The locator device of claim 1, wherein said fastener means comprises an acoustic link
- 2 between said at least one module and said structure.

1 5. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a buoyancy means operably coupled to said at least one module.

1 6. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one  
2 removable weight operably coupled to said at least one module.

1 7. The locator device of claim 5 wherein said buoyancy means comprises at least one  
2 reversible weight operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said reversible weight  
3 comprises a device with at least one chamber that can be purged of or filled with fluid.

1 8. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising a propulsion system operably coupled to  
2 said at least one module.

1 9. The locator device of claim 8 wherein said propulsion system comprises a propeller and  
2 steering fins.

1 10. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a floatation device operably coupled to said at least one module, wherein said floatation  
3 device is deployed when said at least one module approaches or breaks the surface of said body  
4 of water.

1 11. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:

2           an imager for creating video data signals, wherein said video data signals are coupled to  
3           said at least one computer.

1   12. The locator device of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           a communications means between modules, between said at least one module and said  
3           structure, and/or between said at least one module and a search and/or recovery unit.

1   13. A locator device, comprising:  
2           a module, said module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;  
3           a tether connecting said module to a structure, wherein said tether pays out and allows  
4           said module to ascend to the water surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of  
5           water;  
6           a communication device contained in a chamber within said module, wherein said  
7           communication device transmits a communication signal when said module breaks the water  
8           surface when said structure becomes submerged in a body of water.

1   14. A locator device for submerged structures comprising:  
2           a first module, said first module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;  
3           a second module, said second module being constructed of inherently buoyant materials;  
4           a first tether connecting said first module to a structure;  
5           a second tether connecting said second module to said structure, wherein said second  
6           tether pays out and allows said second module to ascend to the surface when said structure  
7           becomes submerged in a body of water;

8           a first computer contained in a chamber within said first module;

9           a source for transmitting a communication signal when said structure becomes

10          submerged in a body of water, operably coupled to said first computer;

11          a first power source operably coupled to said first computer and said source;

12          a first transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably

13          coupled to said first computer and said first power source;

14          a second computer contained in a chamber within said second module operably coupled

15          to a second power source;

16          a second transducer for communicating between said first and second modules, operably

17          coupled to said second computer and second power source.